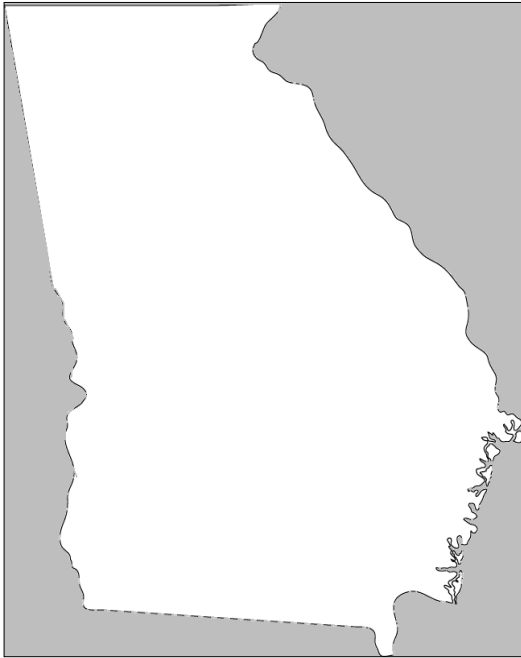


# GEORGIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN



## Emergency Support Function #11 Annex

### *Agriculture & Natural Resources*

2013

## ESF Coordinator

Georgia Department of Agriculture

## Primary Agency

Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Georgia Department of Natural  
Resources

## Support Agencies

Board of Regents of the University System of  
Georgia  
Georgia Animal Control Association  
Georgia Archives  
Georgia Building Authority  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Georgia Department of Corrections  
Georgia Department of Defense  
Georgia Department of Education  
Georgia Department of Human Services  
Georgia Department of Labor  
Georgia Department of Public Health  
Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Georgia Emergency Management Agency/  
Homeland Security  
Georgia Forestry Commission  
Georgia Public Safety Training Center  
Georgia Volunteer Organizations Active in  
Disaster

## INTRODUCTION

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### Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 provides GEMA/HS with a cohesive structure of primary and support agencies/organizations that prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disaster on Georgia's agricultural and natural resources. ESF#11 coordinates support in five critical functional areas during emergency or disaster operations including:

- Coordination of nutrition assistance such as bulk food for mass feeding and administering the Disaster Food Stamp Program.
- Ensuring the safety and security of the State's commercial food supply.
- Controlling and eradicating an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal disease, highly infective exotic plant disease, or economically devastating plant pest infestation.
- Coordinate with ESF#6 for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation.
- Protecting natural, cultural, and historic resources.

## Scope

ESF#11 assists with animals and the animal industry in the animal health emergency or natural disaster; and supports the provision for sanitary food storage, distribution, and preparation during an emergency or disaster.

- Planning and coordinating preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities pertaining to agricultural and natural resources.
- Conducting regular ESF#11 meetings and / or conference calls.
- Supporting and participating in planning meetings and exercises that pertain to ESF#11.
- Maintaining ongoing contact with ESF#11 primary and support agencies.
- Ensuring that ESF#11 Primary and Support Emergency Coordinators maintain operational readiness by taking requisite GEMA/HS SOC training courses.
- Acting as a liaison between ESF#11 and external entities.
- Directing requests for assistance to the appropriate ESF#11 primary agencies.
- Directing unmet requests for assistance to ESF#5 – Emergency Management.
- Providing information on the status, threats / impacts, or restoration of agricultural or natural resources.
- Providing updates on the status of ESF#11 mission assignments to ESF#5 – Emergency Management, the Planning Section Chief, and other entities external to ESF#11.
- Generating, in a timely manner, information to be used in briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans.

## Concept of Operations

### General

Two primary agencies coordinate emergency or disaster operations pertaining to agricultural and natural resources: the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Within the State Operations Center (SOC), the ESF Coordinator (GDA) will serve as the principle point of contact for operations associated with ESF#11. The scope, scale, and magnitude of the threat / incident will dictate whether one or both primary agencies will assign personnel to the SOC and which relevant support agencies will be requested for support.

The scope of operations for ESF#11 includes five principal functions: coordinating nutrition assistance; ensuring the safety and security of the commercial food supply; responding to pests and diseases affecting plants and animals; providing for the safety and wellbeing of animals including companion animals; and protecting natural, cultural, and historical (NCH) resources.

ESF#11 (GDA) assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the coordination of nutrition assistance, and the safety and security of the commercial food supply which includes: identifying, securing, and coordinating the distribution of food, bottled beverages, and supplies to mass feeding sites and when necessary, to households; providing sanitary food storage, distribution, and preparation during an emergency or disaster.

ESF#11 (GDA) assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to animals and plant disease and pest response. The scope of this response includes: animals, livestock, the seafood industry; physical impacts or widespread damage to production agriculture and aquaculture; and the agricultural sector during an outbreak of a highly infectious/contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, exotic plant disease, or plant pest infestation.

ESF#11 (GDA) assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the safety and well-being of animals including companion animals. This includes the identification and coordination of transportation assets, in conjunction with ESF#1 – Transportation and local agencies / jurisdictions, to assist evacuating citizens with pets and the identification, staffing, and support of pet-friendly shelters, animal shelters, and pet and animal confinement/quarantine areas.

ESF#11 (DNR) assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to marine wildlife and terrestrial wildlife; and protecting Georgia's natural, cultural, and historical (NCH) resources. ESF#11 will sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's NCH resources.

In general support of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to agricultural and natural resources, ESF#11:

- (GDA and DNR) shall designate Primary and Alternate Emergency Coordinators. The designees shall represent the agencies in an emergency or disaster and provide operational support in the State Operations Center when requested.
- Sustains operational readiness through ongoing contact with primary and support agencies.
- (GDA) develops and maintains Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) / Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) to include, but not limited to poultry, cattle, swine, dairy, equine, goats, sheep, and companion animal industries to support operations for an emergency or disaster.
- (DNR) develops and maintains SOPs / SOGs regarding aquaculture, seafood, wildlife, and exotic animals to support operations for an emergency or disaster and the preservation of natural, cultural and historic resources.

- Utilizes the National Incident Management System Incident Command System (NIMS-ICS) structure during operations and will organize, train, and equip specialists to can operate within the NIMS / ICS.
- Utilizes all hazards County Extension Agents, Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT), and Georgia Veterinary Response Corps to support field-level ESF#11 mission assignments.
- Ensures adequate levels of training for staff that support ESF#11 and conducts training sessions and workshops to assist local communities and support agencies and organizations.
- Participates in regular planning meetings, in conjunction with the primary and support agencies.
- Monitors the agricultural and commercial food sectors for potential threats or impacts and serves to collect, assess, verify, and disseminate information about them to ESF#11 stakeholders and the Food Emergency Response Network.
- Coordinates with ESF#15 – External Affairs on the establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) and promotes the production and dissemination of public awareness statements.
- Maintains situational awareness and provides ESF#5 – Emergency Management, ESF#15 – External Affairs, and the Planning Section with regular updates and information to support briefings, situation reports, and incident action plans.
- Coordinates damage assessments with the regional coordinator, agricultural and food agencies, and the private sector.
- Maintains a database of all county agricultural emergency coordinators.
- Maintains financial records on personnel, supplies, and other resources utilized

#### Providing Nutrition Assistance

The GDA assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the provision of nutrition assistance. In support of this essential function, ESF#11:

- Coordinates the assessment of the severity of an emergency / impacts of a disaster to determine critical feedings needs and scope of nutrition assistance.
- Identifies, secures, arranges for the transportation of food and drinking water to support congregate sheltering operations and congregate meal service in conjunction with ESF#6 – Mass Care, Health, and Human Services. When possible, food and drinking water will be acquired from state controlled wholesale and processor stocks and / or will use USDA food stocks.
- Coordinates the need for ice with ESF#7 – Resource Support.
- Identifies storage facilities to store / pre-stage food (including dry, chilled, or frozen) and drinking water in preparation for or during an emergency or disaster.
- Coordinates the USDA Disaster Food Stamp Program (DHR partnership) to assist citizens affected by an emergency or disaster.

### Ensuring the Safety and Security of the Commercial Food Supply

The GDA assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the safety and security of the commercial food supply. In support of this essential function, ESF#11:

- Trains first responders, community leaders, and the agricultural industry at the awareness level in agro-security and agro-terrorism.
- Oversee operations during threats or incidents of agro-terrorism that threaten natural resources.
- Performs commercial food inspections to detect food-borne pathogens.
- Coordinates the collection of samples and ensures proper packing, handling, and delivery of them to designated laboratories for appropriate testing.
- Coordinates the recall, tracing, and disposal of adulterated food products.
- Provides for the inspection and assessment of food animals, aquaculture, and seafood production facilities and product storage facilities.
- Exercises the authority to close seafood harvest areas during emergency of disaster operations when seafood is affected in a manner that makes it unfit for human consumption.
- Coordinates with ESF#13 – Law Enforcement during incidents with suspected or confirmed acts of agro-terrorism.
- Coordinates with ESF#8 – Public Health and Medical Services during acts of agro-terrorism or food-borne illness that threaten life safety.
- Guides the development of policies and procedures for reducing the risk and vulnerability of the commercial food sector to acts of agro-terrorism with the Georgia Food Safety Task Force and the Committee on Agriculture and Food Defense.

### Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Response

The GDA assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to responding to pests and diseases affecting plants and animals. In support of this essential function, ESF#11:

- Coordinates training of state and county animal emergency coordinators and other interested persons, in conjunction with the GEMA/HS All Hazards Council.
- Coordinates with support agencies and GAVOAD organizations and other private sector entities to meet emergency or disaster responsibilities.
- Coordinates with ESF#8 – Public Health and Medical Services on animal / veterinary / wildlife issues during outbreaks of zoonotic diseases.
- Provides for surveillance of foreign or domestic animal diseases or an animal disease, syndrome, chemical, poison, or toxin that may pose a substantial threat to the animal industries, aquaculture or seafood industries, the economy, or public health.

- Secures supplies, equipment, personnel, and technical assistance from support agencies, organizations and other resources to support operations during an animal health emergency or any act of agro-terrorism.
- Provides for surveillance of pests which may pose a potential or substantial threat to agriculture, horticulture, economy, or public health of the state.
- Fosters awareness of surveillance techniques intended for early detection of animal health emergencies and agro-terrorism with local ESF#11 partners.
- Organize triage and follow-up medical care for animals with supporting agencies, the GVMA, GVMRC, AVMA, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT), Fort Valley Veterinary Technology Program (FVVTP), and the UGA CVM, and others impacted by the emergency / disaster with assistance from private sector and other ESF#11 partners.
- Provides assistance and care for livestock and other animals impacted by the disaster.
- Coordinates the collection of samples and ensures proper packing, handling, and delivery of them to designated laboratories for appropriate testing.
- Quarantines, stops sale / use / movement, stops movement of animals, plants, equipment, and products as necessary to control and eradicate diseases and pests, in conjunction with GDA authority.
- Coordinates the use of VMATs, and GAVMRC, in conjunction with private sector entities and GVMA, for support of ESF#11 field operations; and takes reasonable measures to provide veterinary treatment and humane care of animals.
- Coordinates the use of National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) to support rapid assessment and initial detection of chemical or biological agents.
- Oversees the humane decontamination and/or destruction of animals, plants, cultured aquatic products, food, and their associated facilities as determined necessary.

#### Providing for the Safety and Well Being of Animals Including Companion Animals

The GDA assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the safety and well-being of animals including companion animals. In support of this essential function, ESF#11:

- Coordinates with ESF#6 – Mass Care, Health, and Human Services to identify potential pet-friendly shelters, animal shelters, or animal confinement areas in proximity to congregate shelters.
- In conjunction with Georgia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (GaVOAD) and county agricultural emergency coordinators, develop, maintains, and regularly updates a list of Georgia animal emergency shelters and confinement areas for dogs, cats and horses.

- Manages and coordinates evacuation of animals from risk areas and provides technical assistance to prevent animal injury and disease dissemination.
- Manages and tracks the sheltering of pets and their owners in pet-friendly shelters and coordinates the care of animals in animal shelters or confinement areas in proximity to congregate shelters.
- Coordinates the animal medical services needed in animal shelters and confinement areas with the GVMA, GVMRC, AVMA, VMAT, the University of Georgia - College of Veterinary Medicine (UGA-CVM), and the University of Georgia - College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (UGA-CAES), and FVVTP.
- Organizes triage and follow-up medical care with supporting agencies, the GVMA, GVMRC, AVMA, VMAT, UGA CVM, and the FVVTP.
- Coordinates with ESF#6 – Mass Care, Health, and Human Services and ESF#15 – External Affairs during sheltering operations for pets and animals on the location and current capacity of shelters and the availability of support resources.
- Coordinates with ESF#9 – Search and Rescue, ESF#1 – Transportation, and Georgia Animal Control Association to facilitate animal rescue and transport to shelters.
- Organizes and publicizes lost and found data to achieve animal/owner reunion in conjunction with GaVOAD and ESF#11 partners.
- Provides consultation and coordinates response with ESF#6 – Mass Care, Health, and Human Service and ESF#8 – Public Health and Medical Services regarding animal and plant issues which may impact public health.
- Utilizes VMAT, GVMA, GVMRC assistance and takes reasonable measures to provide veterinary treatment and humane care of animals during evacuation, sheltering, or re-entry operations.
- Assists support agencies with long term maintenance, placement, or disposition of animals which cannot be returned to their normal habitat or which have been separated from their owners.

#### Protecting Natural, Cultural, and Historical Resources

The DNR assumes primary oversight of emergency or disaster operations pertaining to sustaining, protecting, and conserving Georgia's NCH resources. In support of this essential function, ESF#11:

- In conjunction with The Georgia Archives, will manage, monitor, and assist in or conduct response and recovery actions to minimize damage to NCH resources including essential government and historical records.
- Provides monitoring and impact assessment capabilities for natural resources including: marshes and beaches; coastal and inland public water systems; shellfish harvest areas; non-game, game, and endangered wildlife and their habitats; and marine fisheries.



- Exercises the authority to close seafood harvest areas during emergency or disaster operations when seafood is affected in a manner that makes it unfit for human consumption.
- Monitors impacts of pollution within the air and public water systems.
- Maintains and periodically updates an inventory of NCH resources.
- Provides technical assistance to public NCH properties during damage assessment and requests for assistance.
- Provides preservation, scientific/technical, and records and archival management advice and information for stabilization, security, logistics, and contracting for recovery services of damaged NCH resources pertaining to documentary and archival records and historic documents.
- To the extent possible, maintains a list of shelters or confinements for exotic zoo animals.

### **Activation – ESF#11**

Agricultural or natural resource threat or incident detection may occur from a variety of sources. When any ESF#11 stakeholder is apprised of a threat or incident, they will contact the GEMA/HS Communications Center with pertinent information.

ESF#11 is activated when the GEMA/HS Communications Center, upon guidance from the GEMA/HS Operations Division, issues operational orders to the ESF#11 Coordinator (GDA) who then requests the relevant Primary Emergency Coordinators. GDA and DNR, being the primary agencies for ESF#11, will provide a Primary and Alternate Emergency Coordinator to represent their respective organization and shall support operations within the SOC. The ESF#11 Primary Emergency Coordinators will determine operational support requirements in the assemblage of an interagency coordination group.

### **Organization**

#### Federal-Level ESF#11 Support

The ESF#11 Coordinator and Primary Agency is the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

At the national and regional level, ESF#11 operates under the direction of the USDA Coordinator. For incidents solely affecting NCH resources, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) assumes direction and control of the incident.

For emergency or disaster operations pertaining to the provision of nutrition assistance, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) National / Regional Disaster Coordinator acts as the federal point of contact.

For emergency or disaster operations pertaining to ensuring the safety and security of the commercial food supply, a representative from the District Office of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) acts as the federal point of contact.

For emergency or disaster operations pertaining to an animal and plant disease and pest response, and for providing the safety and well-being of household pets, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National / Regional Coordinator acts as the federal point of contact.

In the event of an outbreak of a highly infectious/contagious or economically devastating animal and/or zoonotic disease in Georgia, the State Veterinarian serves as the principal point of contact with the USDA-

APHIS Veterinary Services (VS), represented by the USDA Area Veterinarian in Charge. In the event of an outbreak of a highly infectious exotic plant disease or economically devastating plant pest infestation in Georgia, The State Plant Health Director of the GDA serves as the principal point of contact with the USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), represented by the State PPQ Director.

For emergency or disaster operations pertaining to sustaining, protecting, and conserving NCH resources, the DOI Regional Environmental Officer acts as the federal point of contact.

#### Georgia ESF#11 Support

The ESF#11 Coordinator and Primary Agency is the GDA.

Within the GEMA/HS SOC, the GDA Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator will serve a dual role as the ESF#11 Coordinator and the Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator for operations pertaining to: the provision of nutrition assistance; ensuring the safety and security of the commercial food supply; an animal and plant disease and pest response; and providing the safety and well-being of household pets. The DNR will serve as the ESF#11 Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator for emergency or disaster operations pertaining to marine and terrestrial wildlife disease response; and sustaining, protecting, and conserving NCH resources. The Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator will assemble an interagency coordination group to support emergency or disaster operations within the SOC.

The ESF#11 Coordinator serves as the point of contact for requests for assistance for ESF#11 that are received by the GEMA/HS State Operations Center (SOC) and is responsible for delegating mission assignments to the appropriate ESF#11 Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator. The ESF#11 Primary / Alternate Emergency Coordinator(s) then ensure mission assignment completion through direct support or by delegation to the

appropriate support agency. Requests for assistance that are unable to be met through ESF#11 stakeholders are submitted to the ESF#5 Emergency Management Event Manager by the ESF#11 Coordinator for further action.

The GEOP ESF#5 Emergency Management contains information on the provision of assets and resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), private-sector or nongovernmental organization (NGO) procurement procedures, and requests for assistance to FEMA.

#### Local ESF#11 Support

Local agencies will coordinate requests for assistance through the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The local EOC ESF#5 will submit requests for state-level assistance to the GEMA/HS SOC. Local Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) will ensure that organic resources are exhausted and that they are unavailable through mutual aid agreements.

ESF#11 will conduct training sessions and workshops to assist local communities and support agencies/organizations in the development of County Agricultural Response Teams (CART) or similar organizations and capabilities.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### ***ESF Coordinator***

The Coordinator for ESF#11 is the Georgia Department of Agriculture and in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources conducts ESF#11 planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

#### Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA)

- Organizes, trains, and equips all hazards SARTs and ensures their operational readiness so that they may mobilize and deploy as required to respond to an emergency or disaster.
- Oversees emergency food assistance through administration of the Disaster Food Stamp Program and through the provision of state controlled or USDA foods stocks which are distributed to mass feeding sites.
- Consumer Protection Division (CPD) and the Animal Industry Division (AID) ensures food safety through extensive monitoring, inspections, and assessments of food animals, aquaculture, seafood production facilities, and product storage facilities.
- CPD coordinates the surveillance of the natural or man-made chemical or biological adulteration of the commercial food supply in the harvesting, wholesale, retail, and processing portion of the food chain.

- CPD coordinates with appropriate law enforcement agencies during suspected acts of agro-terrorism or threats to the commercial food sector.
- CPD conducts food tracing during outbreaks of food-borne illness.
- AID, in conjunction with USDA and the Georgia State Veterinarian, is responsible for monitoring, detecting, and controlling over 100 animal diseases, per the Georgia Reportable Disease Act and Rules, which can have a significant impact on the agricultural economy and trade, or which can be contagious to both animals and people (i.e. zoonoses).
- AID maintains extensive surveillance programs for foreign and domestic animal diseases and provides animal disease detection services including animal inspection and sample collection in conjunction with the Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network and the Athens-Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories.
- AID takes reasonable measures to provide veterinary treatment and humane care of animals including coordinating VMAT and GVMRC assistance.
- AID oversees the humane decontamination and/or destruction of diseased animals and conducts carcass disposal in conjunction with other ESF#11 partners.
- AID, in conjunction with ESF#6 – Mass Care, Health, and Human Services identifies locations for pet-friendly shelters, animal shelters, and pet and animal confinement areas in proximity to congregate shelters.
- AID oversees and manages the evacuation and re-entry of pets and their owners during emergency and response operations.

### ***Primary and Support Agencies***

#### Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Coastal Resources Division (CRD) monitors natural resources for pollution or impacts including marshes, beaches, marine fishery resources, coastal waters, and shellfish harvest areas.
- CRD, in conjunction with Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) monitors, protects, and responds to impacts to wildlife, marine life, non-game and endangered species, and their habitats through law enforcement programs, and by providing specialized veterinary services.
- WRD utilizes the license database, UGA Marine Extension Service, broadcast media, and the United States Coast Guard assets to notify the fishing public of emergency closures.
- Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Air Protection Branch (APB) is responsible for protecting Georgia's air quality through the regulation of emissions from industrial and mobile sources.

- EPD, DNR Watershed Protection Branch (WPB) ensures that Georgia's public water systems are operating properly to supply safe drinking water to citizens; works to control non-point sources of pollution, including erosion and sedimentation; manages storm water discharges; and conducts water quality monitoring and modeling of Georgia's waterways.
- Historic Preservation Division (HPD) serves as the State's historic preservation office.
- HPD supports NCH resource protection by identifying and evaluating historic resources, enhancing technical assistance for historic preservation techniques, increasing the tools available to preserve historic resources, and encouraging historic preservation planning at all levels of government.

#### Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

- Consultation, Equipment, Facilities, Laboratories, Personnel, Research and Development, Training

#### Georgia Archives

- Personnel, Access to Volunteer Organizations, Technical Assistance, Recovery of historic resources and documents

#### Georgia Animal Control Association

- Personnel, Pet Food, Transportation

#### Georgia Building Authority

- Food

#### Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- Intelligence, Laboratory Facilities, Specialized Communications

#### Georgia Department of Corrections

- Equipment, Facilities, Food, Personnel, Vehicles

#### Georgia Department of Defense

- Aircraft, Biosecurity, Facilities, Food, Perimeter Control, Personnel, Quarantine Enforcement, Security, Surveillance, Disposal, Specialized Equipment and Communications, Supplies, Tents, Vehicles, Water

#### Georgia Department of Education

- Consultation, Facilities, Food, Personnel, Training, Water

#### Georgia Department of Human Services- Division of Family and Children Services

- Distribution of Food & Food Stamps and Food Preparation, Information Sharing, Personnel, Coordination of Pet Shelter Site Identification, Training, Vehicles

#### Georgia Department of Labor

- Personnel

#### Georgia Department of Public Health

- Collaboration during acts of agro-terrorism, food-borne illnesses and outbreak investigations, Support on animal/veterinary/wildlife issues during outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, Environmental Health Inspections, Health and Medical, Women, Infants and Children Program

#### Georgia Department of Public Safety

- Aircraft, Communication Equipment, Crisis Management, Escort, Law Enforcement, Quarantine Enforcement, Security, Traffic and Perimeter Control, Transportation, Personnel

#### Georgia Department of Transportation

- Construction, Equipment, Food Distribution, Food Escort, Technical Assistance, Traffic Control, Vehicles

#### Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security

- Facilitation, Communication, Coordination, Equipment, Logistics, Technical Assistance, Administration

#### Georgia Forestry Commission

- Equipment, Personnel, Logistics

#### Georgia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

- Emergency Animal Sheltering, Equipment, Food, Personnel, Supplies, Facilities, Technical Assistance, Veterinary Medical Triage, Water

### **ESF COORDINATION WITHIN STATE OPERATIONS CENTER**

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ESF#11 will report all activities to the ESF#5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of incident action plans and situational reports. All public information reports regarding ESF#11 activities will be coordinated with ESF#15 – External Affairs.

When ESF#11 is activated, Georgia Department of Agriculture, with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and responds to requests for assistance with the management and or maintenance of transportation systems and planning or technical assistance from impacted local, state or federal agencies or other ESFs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF#11 may provide personnel to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to: Joint Field Offices (JFO), Joint Information Centers

(JIC), Disaster Recovery Centers and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each particular incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

## **COORDINATION OF EMAC REQUESTS**

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The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a national mutual aid agreement between the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. It is based on 13 Articles which have been enacted into state law by each state. In Georgia, EMAC is addressed in the O.C.G.A., Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5.

States may only request assistance via EMAC when their governor has declared a state of emergency. EMAC requires that the state requesting assistance reimburse the state that provides the assistance. The Director of GEMA/HS is the EMAC Authorized Representative (AR) for the State of Georgia. The AR is tasked with the authority to commit and accept resources through EMAC partnerships. The AR may delegate this authority to the Operations Director, Deputy Operations Director and Finance Director of GEMA/HS. The GEMA/HS Logistics Program Manager is the designated contact (DC) for EMAC. In the absence of the Logistics Program Manager, the agency has identified alternate designated contacts. The DC is commonly referred to as the EMAC Coordinator. The DC coordinates EMAC operations and prepares the official EMAC Request for Assistance (commonly referred to as the REQ-A). When completed, the REQ-A becomes a contract between the requesting and assisting states for the provision of assistance in accordance with EMAC. When the SOC is activated, the Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit coordinates and manages EMAC missions. This unit will be initially staffed with GEMA/HS personnel, but will likely be augmented by trained EMAC personnel from other states as soon as possible. This unit is also referred to as an EMAC "A" Team.

ESF# 11 will coordinate all EMAC requests with the GEMA/HS EMAC DC or the SOC Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit, when the SOC is activated. No resource (personnel or equipment) may deploy to another state via EMAC until the REQ-A has been approved and signed by the ARs of the requesting and assisting states, and they have been provided a copy of the REQ-A, briefed and prepared for the mission. To facilitate obtaining any assistance Georgia may need via EMAC, state ESFs should identify their shortfalls in capability and where resources may be obtained to provide this capability. This may be accomplished via informal coordination with sister agencies in other states to determine if the needed resource is available for potential deployment to Georgia, its location and the point of contact for the resource. Such information is critical in expediting a request for assistance via EMAC. For more information on EMAC, contact the GEMA/HS EMAC Designated Contact at 404-635-7200.

## **ESF ACTIVATION, EXERCISE & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING**

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GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF#11 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF#11 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops and conferences.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD OPERATING GUIDES**

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The GEMA/HS Planning Section will provide standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the 2012 GEOP. All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF#11 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE CAPABILITY LISTS**

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In conjunction with ESF#7 – Resource Support, ESF#11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources will develop, review, refine and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups, which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).